



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: October 9, 2007

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Engineering Division, Public Works Department

SUBJECT: Underground Utility District No. 10 Cliff Drive Streetlight Improvements

RECOMMENDATION: That Council:

- A. Receive a status report on Underground Utility District No. 10 Cliff Drive (Project); and
- B. Approve supplementing the Project corridor by adding new and enhanced streetlighting and upgraded electrical circuitry at a cost of \$450,000 from appropriated funds in the Underground Utility Fund.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report outlines staff's recommendation to add City-funded street lighting improvements as part of the Underground Utility District No. 10 Project on Cliff Drive (see attachment) and update Council on the Project's status and schedule. The Project is being designed and constructed by Southern California Edison (SCE) using their Rule 20A funds. The recommended City improvements include:

- A) Converting existing streetlights within the Project corridor to a City-owned and maintained streetlighting system, including replacing the existing streetlights with decorative streetlighting, converting the streetlight electrical system to City standard, and adding seven additional streetlights; and
- B) Converting two 6.6 Amp high voltage streetlight circuits adjacent to the Project to conventional low voltage 120 volt circuits. These improvements can be funded primarily by utilizing available, but "limited use," Utility Underground Program funding and available Streets Capital funds.

REVIEWED BY: _____ Finance _____ Attorney

Agenda Item No. _____

DISCUSSION:

SCE has put their Project design (currently at 30%) on hold until a City decision is made as to whether or not the City will propose additional streetlighting and/or streetlight circuits. In the April 20, 2007 Project update memorandum to Council, staff noted the need to investigate possible improvements since this portion of Cliff Drive appears to be under-illuminated and does not conform to City standards. Staff recommends City improvements be included with this Project's SCE construction contract. By doing this, staff believes the City will benefit by receiving lower bid prices for the recommended City improvements, as compared to the City bidding the work separate from this Project.

INVESTIGATION OF CITY IMPROVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

As noted in the April 20, 2007 memo to Council, staff hired an electrical consultant to investigate options and to provide cost estimates for various City improvement opportunities. Three potential City improvement options were identified:

- A. Upgrade the existing streetlight fixtures from the cobra head style to a decorative style, subject to approval of Boards and Commissions, for an estimated cost of \$12,000.
- B. Install the conduit infrastructure for future streetlights. Utilize the Project's common trench to install additional pull boxes and conduit for a future metered City streetlight system. Additional trenching is also proposed to cross Cliff Drive to accommodate future streetlight locations. This option is estimated to cost approximately \$200,000.
- C. Same as No. 2 above, but add seven new streetlights, additional conduit, and wiring to energize the system. Simultaneously upgrade the streetlight system to be a City-owned and maintained streetlight system. Existing streetlights along this Project corridor would be upgraded with new City fixtures to replace the cobra head fixtures, subject to approval of Boards and Commissions. The upgraded streetlight system along this Project corridor will be metered, so the City will only pay for energy that is used, as opposed to the existing and more expensive SCE flat-rated billing. This option is estimated to cost approximately \$450,000.

After analyzing the options, staff requests Council to approve Option (C) for the following reasons:

- 1. The Project corridor streetlighting is deficient and does not meet City standards and practices.
- 2. Additional streetlights will enhance the Project corridor to embellish pedestrian and alternative modes of transportation in accordance with the City's Circulation Element.

3. It is opportune to capitalize on order-of-magnitude cost efficiencies by coordinating City work with the estimated \$4.5 million Project.
4. Limited-use City funding is available and can only be used for an undergrounding project in the Coastal Zone.
5. The Project corridor streetlighting would be upgraded, utilizing new City standard poles and fixtures in accordance with preliminary Streetlight Design Guidelines that are anticipated to be approved by the Boards and Commissions this fall.
6. If no City-recommended improvements were made to the Project corridor, the SCE replacement streetlights (required since some light fixtures are on SCE wooden poles to be removed) would be owned and maintained by SCE. For the period of ten years following SCE improvements, SCE will not allow the City to make any changes to the SCE streetlights to be installed as part of the Project.

As a result of the City improvements investigation, the Project schedule has changed to begin construction in fall 2008, as compared to the previously reported date of May 2008.

SCE agrees to incorporate any City improvements with their upcoming construction contract, in the same manner in which they will incorporate this Project's required Verizon and Cox Cable infrastructure improvements. The City will still have the opportunity to accept or reject this SCE bid alternative as part of their construction bid documents.

6.6 AMP CONVERSION

As a separate opportunity, staff is also proposing to convert two 6.6 Amp high voltage streetlight circuits adjacent to the Project to conventional low voltage 120 volt circuits. These two 6.6 Amp circuits are part of approximately 35 citywide 6.6 Amp circuit pockets that are planned to be eventually replaced and are identified in the City's 6-Year Capital Improvement Project report. Therefore, it is opportune to add this work to the Project. This improvement is estimated to cost approximately \$77,000 and would be funded by available Streets Capital funds.

The two 6.6 Amp circuits exist adjacent to the Project corridor work at Westwood Hills (the Flora Vista neighborhood) and Elise Way (south of Cliff Drive, west of Meigs Road). Conversion of these 6.6 Amp circuits will result in an approximate \$50,000 savings to the SCE Project construction bid; thereby reserving this amount for future Rule 20A undergrounding projects. Plus, some City improvement costs for the 6.6 Amp conversions are expected to be recuperated over time, as the circuits are currently on a SCE flat-rated billing system and will be converted to a separately metered circuit using existing electrical wiring.

SUMMARY

Staff recommends moving forward with the Cliff Drive \$450,000 streetlight system upgrade Option (C) and the \$77,000 6.6 Amp conversion. Staff has obtained proposals from Santa Barbara Electrical Design for design services in the amount of \$24,500 for the streetlight upgrade, and from Steve Friesen Utility Consultant in the amount of \$2,500 for the 6.6 Amp conversion design services. These proposals are within the City Administrator's and Public Work's Director's approval authority.

BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

Staff recommends using the Utility Underground Fund to cover the \$450,000 recommended improvement costs. There are sufficient appropriated monies in the Utility Underground Fund to incorporate Option C.

\$375,000 of these funds were an in-lieu contribution to the Utility Undergrounding Fund for removing the undergrounding requirement at Yanonali Street. A Planning Commission condition stated the money is to be used for an undergrounding project in the Coastal Zone, with the intent that funds be used to augment the planned Cliff Drive undergrounding project. There are no other proposed undergrounding projects in the Coastal Zone to use this money, and utilizing the funds at this time preserves today's "buying power". This expenditure would not impact the monies needed for the Utility Underground Assessment District Program. Additionally, \$405,600 is budgeted in FY 2009 for the Utility Underground Fund, which can be utilized for program needs as determined necessary.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:

City maintenance and energy costs on existing streetlights will be reduced by approximately 25% by installing separately metered streetlights. However, this cost savings will be offset due to the additional energy used by the proposed 7 new streetlights. The new streetlights to be approved by the Boards and Commissions are expected to minimize light pollution.

ATTACHMENT: Underground Utility District (UUD) #10 Cliff Drive

PREPARED BY: John Ewasiuk, Principal Civil Engineer/JE/cc

SUBMITTED BY: Anthony J. Nisich, Public Works Director

APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office

